

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

12-14-1968

Pantzer tells Council of 50 University of Montana in 'very healthy' condition; cites campus problems

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Pantzer tells Council of 50 University of Montana in 'very healthy' condition; cites campus problems" (1968). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 4236.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/4236>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



NEWS

INFORMATION SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

Phone (406) 243-2522

FOR RELEASE AFTER 10 A.M.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

sale/gm
12-14-68
state + cs +

PANTZER TELLS COUNCIL OF 50
UM IN 'VERY HEALTHY' CONDITION;
CITES CAMPUS PROBLEMS

MISSOULA, Mont.---

University of Montana President Robert T. Pantzer said Saturday that he feels the University "is at this hour in a very healthy condition," although he said the campus and the UM administration have experienced some problems in recent months.

Addressing members of the UM Council of 50 in the campus Lodge during the council's annual fall meeting, Pantzer attributed the University's health to the fall enrollment, the faculty and alumni, to new programs authorized for UM by the State Board of Regents in September, and to a lack of problems which other colleges and universities throughout the country experience.

"It (the University) is healthy, as I see it," Pantzer emphasized, "because of the attainment of its largest enrollment in all history, over 7,200 students and over 350 faculty members pursuing teaching and study activity on this campus this fall.

"It is healthy too," he continued, "because of its background of over 23,000 graduates, the vast majority of whom have become responsible citizens in Montana and elsewhere, all over the world, and many who have attained distinction far beyond what one would expect for a western school of this type."

Pantzer cited the value to the University of new curricula offerings approved by the State Board of Regents this fall -- a Doctor of Philosophy degree in pharmacy, a Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene, bachelor's and master's degrees in music education as well as of fine arts in drama, a recreation major in the UM Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and a master's degree in speech communications.

more

"Further, this institution is lacking in some of the extremely distressing problems which are being confronted by many similar institutions throughout the country," Pantzer continued. "We haven't had some of the confrontation tactics which have been evident elsewhere, or the disturbing violent outbursts which some schools have experienced. Certainly, we have had controversy, but really of a rather minor nature compared with that which takes place at so many schools."

Pantzer indicated that one of the controversial items involving the University in Missoula this summer was the use of an essay entitled "The Student As Nigger" in a classroom.

He emphasized that anyone reading the paper "would find it distasteful, repulsive, and subject to tremendous inquiry," but he added that five students of the 29 in the class told him they felt the essay "was appropriate, that the instructor handled it in a very tasteful manner, and that it had real educational value in that particular course."

"No student, and I repeat no student in that class," Pantzer emphasized, "advised me to the contrary."

Pantzer said he feels the instructor of the course "used poor judgment" in using the "The Student As Nigger" in a classroom situation because the article "served to inflame the entire countryside" and motivated an attack on Referendum 65, the six-mill levy which partially supports the six units of the Montana University System.

Pantzer said he was misunderstood during the controversy when he discussed "academic freedom" and the public's involvement in the controversy.

"Some felt that as I talked about 'academic freedom', I was saying that the public has no right to question or to participate in any way," Pantzer said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Every program that exists at the University of Montana has really come about because of the desires and needs of our people. We live in the community which supports us, we are pliable to it, we lean toward its desires and needs, and we respect its support. A University wouldn't even be here if the people had not made it possible. We are not an island out and away."

The UM president also said there was some public concern this fall involving "so-called controversial speakers" such as Adam Clayton Powell, who appeared on campus to give a lecture.

Pantzer said Powell's visit was sponsored and paid for by the Program Council of the Associated Students at UM, a group which also sponsored campus visits by the Utah Symphony, Martin Agronsky, Julian Bond, a panel of the state's gubernatorial candidates and a well known astronaut.

Pantzer said he feels visitors such as Powell offer part of "the entire range of knowledge" which "should be investigated by both the teachers and students" at universities such as UM because of the unique quality of the educational institutions.

Lack of such inquiry "could lead to controlled education which is the practice of the police state," Pantzer concluded.

Others speaking Saturday included Kenneth R. Toole, a UM history professor; Dr. Arnold W. Bolle, dean of the UM School of Forestry; Bob Cope, head basketball coach, and his assistant, Lou Rocheleau; Homer Anderson, director of admissions at UM; Dr. Norman E. Taylor, UM vice-president for research; Greg Hanson, an administrative intern in the president's office, and Dr. Larry M. Elison, an associate professor of law at UM.

Members of the UM Council of 50 assist in maintaining a two-way flow of information between UM and the Montana public. The group meets twice annually to hear about and discuss University activities.

###